



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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"On Ramp" for Senior Services Makes Public Debut at State Fair
SC Access Will Help Individuals and Caregivers Locate Long-Term Care

(Columbia) - Families in South Carolina struggling with decisions about long-term care for an aging or disabled family member have a new high-tech tool that can help.

SC Access, a web-based service directory developed by the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be on display at the State Fair in Columbia Wednesday, October 12 as part of the "Live Well South Carolina" exhibit in the Ruff Building.

"The basic idea behind SC Access is using the power of the Internet to increase consumer choice, help people stay in their homes longer and increase their quality of life," said Barbra Link, coordinator for the project. "The database focuses on services and programs targeted at older adults and adults with disabilities, but anyone can find information there. We also want the system to be as accessible as possible so we have 10 Regional Information, Referral and Assistance Specialists who can help people find services and programs by phone as well."

Overwhelmingly, people would prefer to remain independent and receive support services in their homes rather than having to receive care in an institutionalized setting. In-home care can also be much less expensive than a stay in a nursing home or assisted living facility. Being able to easily locate services that are available in the individual's home community through government agencies, non-profit organizations or the private sector is essential to meeting that goal. SC Access puts that information at the fingertips of individuals and caregivers anywhere there is an Internet connection, as well as linking them with an Information and Referral Specialist in one of South Carolina's 10 Regional Agencies on Aging if they need more in-depth assistance.

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Lt. Governor's Office on Aging

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Staff from the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging will be at the State Fair all day long on Wednesday conducting demonstrations of SC Access as part of "Live Well South Carolina," a special one-day only event that will guide people through the maze of changes happening in Medicare, as well as other vital topics including diabetes, fall prevention and heart disease. SCETV is partnering this year with the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, AARP South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the South Carolina Hospital and Medical Associations to bring programs and informational exhibits to fairgoers on Senior Day, when people age 55 and older will be admitted to the State Fair at no charge.

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